



Below: Parker McAllister (bass) and Aquiles Navaro (trumpet)



Below right: Jamal Jackson Dance Company

Photos by Robert Braunfeld

Compassion and Creativity at Center Stage of BCCHS' Talented Brooklyn Gala

On Wednesday, May 18, Brooklyn Community Housing and Services (BCCHS) hosted *Talented Brooklyn*, a gala celebration of the agency's life-saving work to end homelessness in Brooklyn. Many generous and compassionate friends contributed over \$110,000 to the event, which netted more than \$83,000 in unrestricted funds for BCCHS' programs.

The rain outside did not dampen the warmth and enthusiasm inside DUMBO's Galapagos Art Space, where 200 attendees gathered for *Talented Brooklyn*. Guests joined BCCHS in celebrating the agency's community partners, Board Members and employees who work diligently to help hundreds of women, children and men move from crisis and homelessness to community and independence each year.

"This year we were thrilled to honor three individuals who have done much to help improve the lives of Brooklynites" says Executive Director Jeff Nemetsky. "Martin Dunn's buildings for formerly homeless individuals have led the industry in supportive housing development; Ron Moelis has been one of the nation's most innovative developers of affordable and mixed-use housing for more than two decades; and Elizabeth DiMichele's pro-bono legal counsel has helped BCCHS for many years."

The Gala Planning Committee, led by Co-Chairs Margie Hanssens and Christine Spadaro, treated guests to a night of fun and artistic expression. Highlights included the 3rd Annual BCCHS Resident Art Show, jazz music by the Parker McAllister Quartet, and a rousing performance by Jamal Jackson Dance Company.

The *Talented Brooklyn* theme was represented throughout the event, from gourmet twists on Brooklyn favorites like hot dogs, pizza and cheese cake to a proclamation from Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz. Auction items included a private curator-led tour at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA); tickets to "Jerusalem" on Broadway, the Daily Show with Jon Stewart, and other exciting shows; paintings and hand-blown glass works by Brooklyn artists; a one-week vacation in Rome, Italy; a weekend getaway in upstate New York; dinner at the legendary Rao's New York and several Brooklyn restaurants; vineyard and distillery tours and tastings; sports memorabilia and tickets; wine baskets; and much more.

Thanks to all of the generous and compassionate sponsors, honorees, Board and Committee Members, donors and friends who helped make *Talented Brooklyn* a huge success!

See inside for more Talented Brooklyn.



Message from Executive Director Jeff Nemetsky



Dear friends,

For years BCHS received calls from people all over Brooklyn who were afraid they were going to lose their housing; sometimes the calls were from relatives or friends. "I don't know where else to go," they would say. "I have nowhere else to turn."

I remember one heartbreaking call from a woman whose father had an untreated mental illness. Holding back tears, she told me that his Social Security income was no longer enough to cover a recent rent increase and that he was being evicted from his apartment of 30 years.

It is because of these calls that BCHS - thanks to the generous support of the Oak Foundation - developed the new Brooklyn Housing Assistance Center (BHAC) demonstration initiative. As you will see in this issue of Community Notes, the BHAC is designed to identify individuals in crisis before they become homeless. By helping them address the problems that are putting them at risk, the BHAC will help participants maintain their housing or find alternative housing, and avoid ever ending up on the street or in a shelter.

Also in this issue of Community Notes you will see highlights from our terrific *Talented Brooklyn* gala. A great thank you to our wonderful honorees, Martin Dunn, Ron Moelis and Elizabeth DiMichele, and all of our extraordinarily generous sponsors, guests and supporters. The evening featured performances by dynamic Brooklyn-based entertainers as well as a gallery of beautiful art work created by talented BCHS residents.

Perhaps BCHS' activities this Spring are best summarized by an old proverb: "Share a burden and you have half a burden, share a joy and you have two joys." For me these words always seem to exemplify what is best, and most essential, about community.

I hope you have a wonderful summer. Thank you so much for your support, and thank you for being part of the effort to end homelessness in Brooklyn.

Brooklyn Housing Assistance Center (BHAC) Begins Homelessness Prevention Effort

In March 2011, BCHS launched its Brooklyn Housing Assistance Center (BHAC), a unique program that assists individuals who are facing a crisis that is jeopardizing their housing. The goal is to ensure that participants never end up on the street or in a shelter. The BHAC works in two ways: 1) **Prevention** for new clients at imminent risk of becoming homeless, and 2) **Aftercare** for former BCHS residents.

BHAC Prevention focuses on single adult males in Brooklyn—a population identified as facing the greatest risk of becoming homeless—who can provide proof that they are in danger of losing their housing within 60 days. A case manager works with clients to resolve the problems putting them at risk, connects them to helpful services from partner organizations, and if necessary, assists them in finding alternative housing.

BHAC Aftercare prevents a recurrence of homelessness among former BCHS residents who are facing a significant setback that is putting them at risk of losing their housing. An Aftercare case manager provides comprehensive assistance to help resolve the immediate crisis, including tenant-landlord mediation, a 24-hour hotline, legal assistance, and more. BHAC Aftercare

also assists current BCHS residents who are graduating to independent living, providing extra help to ensure their successful transition.

"This program is essential and timely," says Director Marie Degraff-Myal. "We believe it will help many Brooklyn residents avoid homelessness and remain in stable independent housing."

Below: Prevention Case Manager Adriana Arana, Aftercare Case Manager Kiteasha Barnes, Assistant Executive Director Wendy Junious and Program Director Marie Degraff-Myal



Volunteers Dig In for BCHS' Spring 2011 Gardening Day



On Saturday, May 7, more than 25 volunteers from *Goldman Sachs Community TeamWorks* and *Party4aCause* joined BCHS staff and residents for a day of planting, mulching and beautifying at *Brooklyn Gardens*. The group rolled up their sleeves and planted more than 100 annuals, perennials and shrubs in the courtyard and flower beds at BCHS' three-building apartment complex for formerly homeless women, children and men.

Executive Director Jeff Nemetsky thanked volunteers for contributing their time and hard work for the project. "The courtyard at *Brooklyn Gardens* is a calm and happy gathering place for our residents. Your efforts in the garden make the grounds even more welcoming."

Goldman Sachs Community TeamWorks volunteers have helped with BCHS Gardening Days for five years. We are extremely grateful for their support and generous commitment to helping BCHS end homelessness in Brooklyn. Thanks also to the wonderful and dedicated volunteers from *Party4aCause*.

Below: (back row) BCHS staff and residents, volunteers from *Goldman Sachs Community TeamWorks*; (front row) volunteers from *Party4aCause*

Photos by Jessica Rosen



Party4aCause Serves Up Philanthropy and Fun to Help BCHS

It wasn't your ordinary black-tie charity event! On Saturday, March 5, more than 100 young professionals gathered at the Public House in Manhattan to enjoy a night of fun and excitement to benefit BCHS. The James Bond-themed event, presented by *Party4aCause*, raised \$2,000 to help end homelessness in Brooklyn.

Party4aCause is an organization led by a group of young, active New York City professionals dedicated to supporting the local community through social fundraising events and bringing others closer to the cause. Since its founding in 2006, *Party4aCause* has raised over \$12,000 for charitable partners throughout the New York City community.

"We are honored that *Party4aCause* chose BCHS as the beneficiary for their event," said Board Vice-Chairman Tim Hosking. "They are a fun group of individuals who are clearly committed to making a positive difference in our community."

Visit www.Party4aCause.com for more information.

Left to right: Takshin Bhat, *Party4aCause* President Jon Sukarangsang; BCHS Executive Director Jeff Nemetsky; and Bentley Ng

Photo by Marina Vitebsky





HONORING

MARTIN DUNN
Dunn Development Corp.

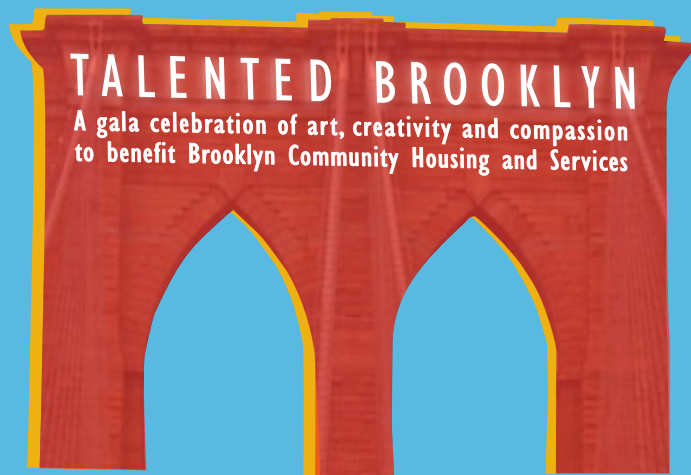
RON MOELIS
L+M Development Partners

ELIZABETH DIMICHELE
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP

2011 GALA PLANNING COMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRS
Margie Hanssens
Christine Spadaro

Ia Andrews
Benjamin Baxt
Kim Bingham
Peter Hansen
Tim Hosking
Venice James
Naima Mohamed
Arzora O'Neal
Sean O'Neal



TALENTED BROOKLYN

A gala celebration of art, creativity and compassion to benefit Brooklyn Community Housing and Services

SPONSORS

CHAMPION JPMorgan Chase

BENEFACTOR Dunn Development Corp.
Tim Hosking and Audrey Sokoloff
L+M Development Partners
Medco Plumbing
Monadnock Construction, Inc.
Sean O'Neal and Ambereen Sleemi

PATRON All New York Title Agency, Inc.
Atlantic Development Group LLC
Hirschen Singer & Epstein LLP
Maria Jones
Richter + Ratner

FRIEND Artec Construction and Development Corp.
Curtis + Ginsberg Architects LLP
Patrick and Andrea Fry
SMR Craftworks, Inc.
Strategic Construction Corp.

VIRTUOSO Elizabeth Bailey

PRODIGY Delco Electrical Corp.

Above (from top down, left to right):

Brooklyn Borough President's Office Representative Nan Blackshear, BCHS Executive Director Jeff Nemetsky, and BCHS Board Chair Ben Baxt
BCHS Resident Artists Ezekial Cohen, Hilde Freedom and Paulette Rogers
Executive Director Jeff Nemetsky, Honorees Martin Dunn, Elizabeth DiMichele and Ron Moelis, and Board Chair Ben Baxt

Below (left to right):

Jessica Ziegler and BCHS Board Member Ia Andrews
Emcee Lu Celia Sierra
BCHS Staff Members Brian Kelly and Quana Waters
Elena Feliciano and BCHS Board Member Peter Hansen

Photos by Robert Braunfeld



THE 3RD ANNUAL BCHS RESIDENT ART SHOW

In 2009 BCHS hosted its First Annual Resident Art Show to showcase artistic works by talented residents from our programs for formerly homeless women, children and men. The annual show highlights the artists' diverse visions, skills and experiences, and it celebrates each one's unique talents.

Some of our residents have long-standing relationships with art, both recreationally and professionally. Others developed their creative voices more recently, during their journeys from crisis and homelessness to community and independence. All of them share one strong common bond – the feeling of freedom, joy and satisfaction they gain from creating art.

Through our Resident Art Show, BCHS encourages and nurtures the therapeutic value and self-expression that art provides for our residents. And through a vibrant activities program that includes weekly art sessions, we give each resident the opportunity to explore the possibilities and benefits that art can offer them.

We thank the BCHS resident artists for allowing us to share their highly personal works at *Talented Brooklyn*.

Curtains from a drawing by Jenny Chan

ART CREDITS

(from top)

Hilde Freedom (left)

Jenny Chan (right)

Barry McCrea

Jerry Foust

Fred Turbee



A WEEK IN MY LIFE: PHOTOGRAPHS BY BCHS RESIDENTS

This year's Resident Art Show also featured a special collection of photos captured for a voluntary project we call "A Week In My Life." The agency provided disposable cameras to participants and asked them to document their experiences, communities, and perspectives during a single week. The resulting images range from stark to scenic, and from static to vibrant. We thank the following residents for allowing us these honest glimpses into their day-to-day routines and ongoing journeys from crisis to community.

Stacy Adams (Ivy House)

Robine Blue (Arbor Inn)

Jenny Chan (Scattered-Site)

Ezekial Cohen (Scattered-Site)

Shonda Glover (Scattered-Site)

Deanna Patterson (Arbor Inn)

Roderick Pixley (Oak Hall)

Paulette Rogers (Scattered-Site)

Qiana Thompson (Arbor Inn)

Fred Turbee (Oak Hall)



2011 BCHS RESIDENT ARTISTS

Left to right:

Jenny Chan

Jerry Foust

Hilde Freedom

Barry McCrea

Lindora Slowe



\$10,000 - \$24,999

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. and
JPMorgan Capital Corporation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Dunn Development Corp.
Tim Hosking and Audrey Sokoloff
L+M Development Partners
Medco Plumbing, Inc.
Monadnock Construction, Inc.
Sean O'Neal and Ambereen Sleemi

\$2,500 - \$4,999

All New York Title Agency, Inc.
Atlantic Development Group
Ben and Susan Baxt
Caitlyn Brazill and Matthew Hawkins
Goldman Sachs
Hirschen Singer & Epstein LLP
Maria Jones and David Cooper
Richter+Ratner
Mark Sexton and Mark Wallace

\$1,000 - \$2,499

A. Enrico Contracting Corp.
Anonymous
Artec Construction and
Development Corp.
Curtis + Ginsberg Architects LLP
Delco Electrical Corp.
Patrick and Andrea Fry
Cynthia Godsoe and Eric Pitt
Jeff Nemetsky and Jessica Ziegler
Party4aCause
SMR Craftworks, Inc./Andrew Fishman
Strategic Construction Corp.

\$500 - \$999

Ia Andrews and Eliot Merrill
Anonymous
Aon Construction Services Group
B.W.B. Crown Partition
Elizabeth Bailey
Baxt Ingui Architects PC
Robert Buckholz and Lizanne Fontaine
Certified Asbestos Removal Corp.
Clifford and Leslie Cohen
Darcon Construction Corp.
Gail Flanery and Tom Potter
Peter Hansen and Elena Feliciano
Margie Hanssens and Kevin McGrath
J.E.S. Plumbing & Heating Corp.
David and Karen Marino
Stephen McGrath

\$500 - \$999 (continued)

P Joe Construction Corp./
Peter McLoughlin
Ron Moelis
New York Concrete Corporation
Bill Nye, Ph.D.
Omni New York, LLC
SDI Laundry Solutions
Woodworks Construction Co, Inc.

\$250 - \$499

Kim Bingham
Peter Brodie and Corrine Rodriguez
Bruno Frustaci Contracting, Inc.
Thomas and Carolyn Castelnovo
Corporation for Supportive Housing
John Frezza
Manny and Pat Fuchs
Liz Giamatti
Jane Glaubinger
Catherine Hanssens
Molly K. Heines and Thomas J. Moloney
Leslie and Jim Margolis
Lexy Mayers and David Lesser
Chris Morrison and Ron Marino
Ryan Moser
National Allotment Insurance
Agency, Inc.
New York Methodist Hospital
Prestige Management, Inc.
James and Patricia Rohan
Lola Simpson
Catherine Sloane and Ben Davis
Super-Charged Electric, Inc.
Christopher Tahbaz
Asif and Sabera Talukdar
Total Management
TPG, Inc./Thomas P. Gallagher
Mark and Lois Wingerson

\$100 - \$249

18 Friends of Senator
Velmanette Montgomery
Airflow Systems
Anonymous (2)
Emerson Atkins
Bill and Mary Baker
Cabfab/Chris Clemans
June Castelnovo
Eva Cranford
Ivy Crewdson
James O. Daley
Anne and John Dockery

\$100 - \$249 (continued)

Joan Erskine
David Fazio and Jen Coffey
Jack Frazier
Jodi Hauptman and Greg Clarick
Joy M. Holz, Esq.
Barb Hosking
Earl Johnson
Geoff Kessell and John Rutledge
SoHui Kim
Bennette Kramer and Eliot Long
Elise Long
Kathleen Madden
Sally and Richard Mann
Diana and Robert Mattson
Mark McCann
Srenica Munthre and David Hazan
Kim Neuhaus and Donald Kilgore
Northwest Atlantic Real Estate Services
Angel and Laura Ortiz
Palone Bros. Air Conditioning
Kristen and Bill Rushing
Laura Schnell and Mitch Pacelle
Wendy and Alex Stanton
Starr Security Services
Emily Sweet and David Drits
TGI Office Automation Inc.
Anna Verdi
Neil and Susan Whoriskey
Robin Zimpler

Up to \$99

June Adams
Anonymous (2)
Salih Atli
Elizabeth Carr
Katie Davis
Clarence J. Evans, M.D.
Meredith Hamilton and Miles Draycott
Susan Hyman
Michael and Dayan Ingui
Venice James and Mark Foushee
Shirley L. Joyner
Gerry and Jerilyn Kaplan
Kum Kau Chinese Kitchen, Inc.
Isa Markevitz
Joseph and Pamela McCarthy
Dorian Muller
Arzora O'Neal
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gift
Program

Gifts In-Kind

Algonquin Books
AMC Theatres
Brooklyn Borough President's Office
Brooklyn Junior
Brooklyn Roasting Company
Chris Clemans/Cabfab
Ramona Candy
June Castelnuovo
Tom Castelnuovo
Clinton Hill Simply Art & Framing Gallery
The Daily Show
Michael Dorf and City Winery
Gail C. Flanery
Flying Pigs Farm/Mike Yezzi and Jennifer Small
Margie Hanssens and Kevin McGrath
Jodi Hauptman
Tim Hosking
Hughes Contracting
The Producers of "Jerusalem" on Broadway
Jive Turkey Restaurant
JPMorgan Chase

Gifts In-Kind (continued)

"Love, Loss and What I Wore" at the Westside Theatre
Students, Parents and Staff of Community Roots Charter School (CRCS)
Madiba Restaurant
Malchijah Hats
Matthews Hats
The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)
National Hockey League (NHL)
New York Distilling Company/Tom Potter
Old York Cellars/David Wolin
Paradis to Go
Powell Scott Glass
Raeder's Wines & Liquors
Dave Reichers
Russ & Daughters
Rustik Neighborhood Tavern
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
Spoke the Hub/Elise Long
Wesley Stace
Marisa Tesauero

Tributes

IN HONOR OF

MARTIN DUNN
Diana and Robert Mattson

TIM HOSKING
Barb Hosking

MAGGIE POXON
Robin Zimbler

IN MEMORY OF

SALLY YARMOLINSKY
Kathleen Madden

Brooklyn Students Deliver Special Donations to Moms and Kids at Arbor Inn

On April 15, a group of fourth graders from Community Roots Charter School (CRCS) delivered a special batch of donations to *Arbor Inn*, BCHS' program for single mothers with children. The ten students are participants in CRCS' Learning through Service & Action (LSA) after school program. Through the program, they explored ideas around serving their community and planned related projects, including a collection drive to help homeless people in Brooklyn.

The team collected diapers, baby food, and toys from throughout the entire CRCS community and donated the items to two Fort Greene family shelters, including *Arbor Inn*. We are extremely grateful for the thoughtfulness and hard work of these remarkable students, and we deeply appreciate the generosity of everyone from CRCS who contributed to their collection drive.



We're committed to ending homelessness in Brooklyn.

Each year, BCHS provides safe and clean supportive housing for 700 formerly homeless women, children and men. We help them learn how to live productively and independently, with dignity and with hope.

To contribute, or to learn how you can help, please visit www.BCHands.org or contact BCHS' Development Department at (718) 852-9322 ext. 2140



105 Carlton Ave
Brooklyn, NY
11205

Brooklyn Community Housing and Services

Board of Directors

Chairman

Benjamin Baxt

Vice-Chairman

Tim Hosking

Treasurer

Thomas Castelnuovo

Board Members

Ia Andrews

Kim Bingham

Alexandra Bowie

Clifford Cohen

Patrick Fry

Peter Hansen

Margie Hanssens

Darryl Hollon

Sean O'Neal

Christine Spadaro

Asif Talukdar

Aricka Westbrooks

Executive Director

Jeff Nemetsky

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Brooklyn, NY
Permit No. 1308